to be provided to the farmers. The Working Group has already recommended a subsidy to cover 50 per cent of the cost of the plantation, maintenance and up to the bearing stage—tree crop insurance to cover the risk—facilities for providing long-term and short-term loans for building up infrastructural facilities and to meet the cultivation charges. The farmers during that period of five years can raise winter crops also and they can have so many other varieties of crops. This has also been covered by the Group.

We have already provided a sum of Rs. 800 crores during the Seventh Plan period for assisting the Oil-palm India Ltd., which is a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Kerala with equity participation. Besides this, during the next annual plan we are also proposing to raise sufficient funds so that this oilpalm cultivation may grow up. In this connection we are assisting Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd., to come up with plantation.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the climate of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is suitable for oilpalm cultivation. The Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands had requested the Central Government to allow them to grow oilpalm trees in his area but the Forest Department is not giving them permission to grow these trees. The Lt. Governor has pointed out that growing of oilpalm trees will help in the development of the economy of the Islands. May I know from the Minister whether he will impress upon the Forest Department to give permission for growing oilpalm trees in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Sir, three types of organisational structures have already been suggested and amongst them is the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd. They are also growing trees in an area of more than 1000 hectares.

So far as Ministry of Agriculture is concerned, we have already accepted their proposal and assisted them but the Forest Department is looking into this aspect from their environmental point of view. They will take a view on this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Telecast of News in Telugu from Delhi Doordarshan

*121. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to telecast National News from Delhi Doordarshan in Telugu language; if so, the details thereof;

(b) by when the Channel II Transmission would commence from Hyderabad Doordarshan Kendra; and

(c) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal for introduction of Second Channel at Doordarshan Kendra, Hyderabad.

(c) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation of flood-affected people in Delhi

*123. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken in last 3 years to prevent damage due to floods in Delhi;

(b) the number of families that had to be shifted due to the recent floods in Delhi;

(c) whether Government have decided to rehabilitate such families on the high lands to save them from the repeated agony of flood-havoc; and

(d) if so, what is the action-plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) A number of flood protection measures like construction and strengthening of embankments on river Jamuna, studs, spurs and Tie-bands and desilting of storm water drains in the Union Territory of Delhi have been taken in the last 3 Years to prevent demange due to floods.

(b) A total number of 8122 families had to be shifted due to recent floods in Delhi areas.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is presently under consideration.

R and D expenditure by Pepsi Project

*125. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) how much Budget is earmarked in the Pepsi Project for Research and Development; and

(b) how does it compare with the budgets of the various Agriculture Universities and other laboratories in India on Agricultural Research and Development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Rs. 1.64 crores is earmarked for the Pepsi Project for Research and Development. This includes a Capital outlay of Rs. 0.59 crore and operating expense of Rs. 1.05 crores for five years.

(b) The budget estimate for the year 1988-89 of various Agricultural Universities and other laboratories is Rs. 38.83 crores.

Taking over of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd.

*127. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in taking over the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited, Bhadravathi; whether the Government of India have put in certain conditions in this regard; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the State Government thereto and the time required to complete the formalities for the taking-over of the steel plant?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Before the take over of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. (VISL) is considered by the Central Govt. certain steps have to be taken to ensure its economic viability. Amongst others, assured power supply by Karnataka State Electricity Board at reduced rates, and concessions to VISL from the financial insitutions and banks regarding outstanding loans and accumulated interest on loan are of crucial importance.

Govt. of Karnataka have yet to communicate their response to the proposed reduction in rate of power supply and keeping it frozen for the next five years with the assurance of sustained power supply.

Although VISL with the help of SAIL were to hold discussions with the financial institutions|banks with regard to the financal concessions to be made available by them, no final decision has so far been taken in this regard.

Decision on the proposal for the take over of the VISL by the Central Govt. would be considered after a positive response on the points indicated to the State Govt. is available.

Child exploitation

*129. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has